

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a laminar plate dimensioned to be generally coextensive with a lower surface of ~~the~~ a mailbox;

means for securing the mailbox to the plate;

a one-piece, generally cylindrical sleeve secured ~~directly to~~ in immediate physical contact with a central portion of the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

means for securing ~~the~~ a post within the sleeve.

2. (Original) The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the laminar plate is rectangular and has a pair of long edges.

3. (Currently Amended) The bracket according to claim 2, wherein the means for securing ~~the~~ a mailbox to the plate further comprises:

a flange on each of the long edges of the plate extending generally perpendicular to the plate; and

at least one fastener to secure the flange to a corresponding flange on ~~the~~ a mailbox.

4. (Original) The bracket according to claim 3 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.

5. (Currently Amended) The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the means for securing ~~the~~ a post within the sleeve further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and ~~the~~ a post; and
a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to ~~the~~ a post.

6. (Original) The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the plate is provided with a plurality of lightening holes.

7. (Currently Amended) A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a rectangular plate having an upper surface and a lower surface and a pair of long edges, the upper surface of the plate being dimensioned to be generally coextensive with and adapted to support a lower surface of ~~the~~ a mailbox;

at least one flange on a long edge of the plate, the flange extending generally perpendicular to and downwardly from the lower surface of the plate;

at least one fastener for securing the flange to ~~the~~ a mailbox;

a generally continuous and generally cylindrical sleeve secured ~~directly~~ in immediate physical contact to a central portion of the lower surface of the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

a sleeve fastener for securing ~~the~~ a post within the sleeve.

8. (Currently Amended) The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the sleeve fastener further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and ~~the~~ a post; and

a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to ~~the~~ a post.

9. (Original) The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.

10. (Original) The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the plate is provided with a plurality of lightening holes.

11. (Original) The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the flange extends from each long edge of the rectangular plate.

12. (Currently Amended) A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a rectangular plate having an upper surface and a lower surface and a pair of long edges and a pair of short edges, the upper surface of the plate being dimensioned to be generally coextensive with and adapted to support a lower surface of ~~the~~ a mailbox;

a plurality of lightening holes formed in the plate

at flange extending along each long edge of the plate generally perpendicular to and downwardly from the lower surface of the plate;

at least one fastener for securing the flanges to corresponding flanges on the mailbox;

a generally cylindrical, generally continuous, and one-piece sleeve ~~directly to~~ in immediate physical contact with a central portion of the lower surface of the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

a sleeve fastener for securing ~~the~~ a post within the sleeve.

13. (Currently Amended) The bracket according to claim 12 wherein the sleeve fastener further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and ~~the~~ a post; and

a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to ~~the~~ a post.

14. (Original) The bracket according to claim 12 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.